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THE MASS MEETING.

Who says the Chinese are unprogressive. Certainly the Chinese of the Hawaiian Islands are and take to the Western man's methods as a duck takes to the water. If in Peking there was a heaven of people, such as the leading Chinese here, there would be far less chance of complications with Western powers, than there is now.

The trouble with the imperial advisors is that they are densely ignorant and prejudiced beyond the wildest stretch of imagination. They cannot and will not understand the power of the Western people. On the other hand the Hawaiian Chinese do very thoroughly. Many of them speak our language fluently, of the younger many are well read in our literature and are students of our science.

As the Chinese resident in Hawaii cannot exercise any influence direct upon the Peking Government—indeed the Peking Government exerts considerable direct influence over them, by imprisoning their families at the instigation of Consul Yang Wai Pin—they have very wisely determined to show, through proper diplomatic channels, that there are able reforming Chinese who believe that China needs a change in government. This government must be of a class to assimilate China with the Western advancement and bring into line as Japan has done, placing herself among the leading powers. In this way is the hope for peace in China, and peace with the rest of the world.

The idea is a good one, but it is remarkable thing for Chinese residents in Hawaii to ask the American diplomatic agents at the European courts to lay their plans before those governments. The Chinese of Hawaii have demonstrated very clearly that they can be keen political thinkers and that they can talk politics alongside any one. They have also made a move which is unique in character and which may have political results in the future.

A SEVERED CONNECTION.

It is evident that Harold M. Sewall does not intend to return to Hawaii for some time. He is going into active political work, stumping in the East and will doubtless make a record, for while not a sympathetic speaker he is a forcible one. And then he has a wonderful power of industry and can collect facts and figures in almost endless variety and then can reel them off in his speeches. Then again his style of speaking is more appreciated in the East than it is in the West.

Mr. Sewall's campaign for governor of Hawaii which at one time appeared so prosperous came to an end disastrously. Up to a certain point there seemed to be no doubt of his appointment, and then suddenly he dropped out of the race altogether. The cause of this has never been made clear, but it is generally believed that Mr. Sewall defeated himself.

Whether Mr. Sewall will at the expiration of Governor Dole's term of office again seek executive honors in Hawaii is highly problematical. After the presidential campaign is over and William McKinley is once more an occupant of the Presidency he will probably seek a diplomatic position in Europe, which will give him entire change. He has had a good deal of Pacific life first at Samoa and then here, and he may want to try his talents upon an entirely different set of people and mingle in an entirely different set of events.

While here Mr. Sewall saw some of the stirring events in Hawaiian history including the raising of the flag on August 12, 1898. He was actively employed in the annexation movement, but after that culminated on the above date he ceased to influence the public mind to any great extent, and gradually became more and more retired, while other figures belonging to the embryo Territory came more and more to the front. It is doubtful whether we shall see Mr. Sewall in Hawaii for many years.

THEY ARE LOST.

The reign of terror in Peking continues and the destruction of a portion of Legation buildings seems likely to be followed by their complete annihilation. The whites have concentrated at the British Legation and are there holding out, but though well provisioned they lack ammunition, and when they have shot away their last cartridge, what will become of them. They cannot fight a hand to hand struggle with their foes, who would simply swarm over them in a wave of blood red brutality. It does not seem possible that help can reach the struggling whites in time.

News of events in Peking travels slowly. The murder of the German Minister which took place June 13, did not reach Tien-tsin till July 2. All the legations except four were destroyed

and burned by June 20. The allied forces were still in and about Tien-tsin on July 2. The whites at the British Legation had therefore been besieged for twelve days at last accounts. The distance between Tien-tsin and Peking is eighty miles. With forced marches and no molestation an army might cover that distance in four days. But there will be molestation. The relieving force will have to fight every inch of the way, for masses of Chinese soldiers are pouring in to bar the road to Peking, and Peking itself will be somewhat of a nut to crack. It looks very much as if the fate of the Ambassador and missionaries was sealed.

That the Imperial troops have joined the Boxers is evident. The German Ambassador was killed by Chinese regulars. His body was dragged round the streets of Peking. This will read a thrill of horror through the Fatherland and volunteers from the army will pour in eager to avenge the insult to their nation, and the other nations will also have to seek vengeance. Nothing but the occupation of Peking will snow the conservative Chinese that the Western powers are not to be trifled with. As his Ambassador to China is killed, it would be eminently proper for the Emperor William to detain the body of the Chinese Envoy in Berlin. Indeed Chinese representatives throughout the Western powers should now be regarded as hostages, and prevented from returning to their country until affairs are more settled. It is more than likely that before this every white man and woman in Peking has been a victim to mob violence.

PRECAUTIONS.

Even if there had been a United States life saving station on this island, it could have done nothing to help the young man who lost his life at Makapuu Point. The life saving station would most probably be located where there are the most people going into the water, viz: Waikiki. When the late Mr. Unbrecht lost his life, is a desolate, out of the way place seldom visited.

But something should be done about the bathing and canoeing at Waikiki, or some of these days there will be an accident. Where people know how to swim there is little or no danger save in very rough weather, but strangers who don't know how to swim are constantly engaging the native canoes, and there is not a proper proportion of Hawaiian to passengers. Some years ago the writer was at Niihau, a tremendous surf got up and yet it was necessary to get to the steamer. The wife and children of one of the proprietors had to embark. To each child, there were four, was allotted one Hawaiian, to the wife two. Each man had his surf board with him. The surf was run through all right, but had the boat upset each one of the family would have been looked after and have been perfectly safe, while the crew looked after the boat. The vessel was a mile from shore, the six Niihau men came on board, had a feed of poi, and then diving over the vessel's side, merrily swam ashore again. The Star would suggest that two ladies and four Hawaiians should be the allotment in all canoe surf riding. It is by no means too much.

The library and archives of the American Legation resident here have all been turned over to the Secretary of the Territory, therefore they can not have been shipped to the mainland by Mr. Sewall. The archives of the Consulate have also gone into the care of Secretary Cooper. The State Department does not wish to gather useless lumber, however interesting it may be historically.

The best news received by the Hong-kong Maru was that the Oregon was afloat in deep water and that there would be no great difficulty in having her in seagoing condition shortly. When one considers the momentum with which such a mass must have struck the solid rock, one wonders that the accident could be remedied. The Oregon will float the stars and stripes in the coming Chinese campaign and will carry it in the fore front as she ever has.

The commissioner of immigration finds his position a sinecure, as the flood of labor from the Orient has ceased to flow. The movement of Japanese between the Islands he cannot regulate, however. The Japanese from the other Islands are flocking into Honolulu, expecting to pick up gold from the sidewalks. The Heela Japanese came to town some time ago on a similar quest, but when they found it was only fairy gold they drifted back to their work again. Hunger is a hard task master, and to satisfy it men must work.

The would-be legislators for Hawaii, who, likely enough, may try their hands at legislation of sorts, and who seem to be certain of victory, should pause and think. A territory is in a state of pupillage, and Congress has immense powers. Congress has given considerable powers of self-government to the people of this Territory, but if a majority chooses to pass laws of an absolutely foolish nature, and shows that it is incapable of self control and good government, why Congress can easily undo its own work. This is said in all sadness. There are people who are advising the Hawaiians against their own interests, and it seems pitiful to see them being led astray. Of course good advice will not be heeded, but it is one's duty to give it and go on record. Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first made mad, is an old saying, but it has a deal of philosophy in it.

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